

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 08183 211334Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET US IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OPTIMISM REGARDING EITHIOPIA

REF: PARIS 7948

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT MEETING WITH CHARGE, ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR STRESSED DEPTH OF ISRAELI CONVICTION THAT
MENGISTU IS NOT A MARXIST BUT A PRAGMATIST AND THAT
USG SHOULD NOT "WRITE HIM OFF." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING RECENT GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HORN OF AFRICA,
RED SEA AREAS WITH CHARGE, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR GAZIT
RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REGIME
BY DELIVERING AN EMPHATIC ASSERTION OF ISRAELI
CONVICTION THAT MAJOR MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM IS NOT A
CONVINCED LEFTIST BUT RATHER A PRAGMATIC, MILITARY
DICTATOR. GAZIT INDICATED HE WAS NOT SPEAKING UNDER
INSTRUCTION BUT PROFESSED FAMILIARITY WITH GOI VIEWS
ABOUT EPMG. HE ASSERTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE FREQUENT
ACCESS TO MENGISTU, UNLIKE OTHER DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
IN ADDIS, AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF USG CONTINUING
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TO TRY TO WORK WITH THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY LEADER. HE
NOTED RUEFULLY THAT ROAD TO SUCCESS WAS MILITARY
ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF ISRAEL
AND DEPLORED RECENT MANIFESTATION OF US HUMAN RIGHTS
CONCERNS WHICH HE SAID WERE DRIVING MENGISTU AWAY FROM
USG AND INTO THE ARMS OF THE RADICAL STATES.

2. COMMENT: IT WAS APPARENT FROM GAZIT'S REMARKS THAT
ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUING MAJOR EFFORT TO ENHANCE AND
MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. SEE PARA 4 OF
REFTEL FOR FRENCH COMMENT.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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